

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Overhead Door Corporation

Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Overhead Door Corporation Reduces Costs with Set-Up Reduction

Client Profile:

Overhead Door is a leading provider of overhead garage door systems, including its popular upward lifting garage door, and offers hundreds of products in standard and custom forms, including variations in steel, wood, aluminum, insulation type, and colors. Its nationwide network of more than 450 authorized distributors serve the United States, Canada and Mexico. Overhead Door employs 499 people at its facility in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Situation:

Overhead Door's garage door systems are manufactured to customers' specifications and needs. To best serve these customer needs, maintain costs, and identify continuous improvement opportunities, the company contacted the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

NMEP developed a Lean manufacturing plan to reduce the changeover time for the company's residential manufacturing lines. The scope of the changeover project was unlimited as the Overhead Door team chose to evaluate for low cost-no cost immediate solutions and long-term opportunities. Overhead Door attended a "hands-on" NMEP training event on Set-up Reduction/Quick Changeover where participants analyzed and developed an implementation plan for the company. Following this training, a Single-Minute Exchange of Die (SMED) event was held to evaluate the 350 residential manufacturing line changeover processes. The Overhead Door team was cross functional in its makeup, including participants from management, engineering, and production. During the event, the team evaluated the process and looked for opportunities to reduce internal task times and move as many tasks to external as possible. Low-cost solutions implemented quickly included installing guides on the embossment dies for quicker alignment, shim modifications for quicker changes, shadow boards for tools, software corrections, and a documented responsibility detail by position for the changeover. Long-term capital opportunities include a die staging table to turn die travel from an internal to an external process resulting in additional time savings, and a software upgrade resulting in scrap material savings.

Results:

- * Reduced changeovers by 38 percent.
- Projected:
- * Cost savings of \$56,000.

Testimonial:

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

"The SMED training course taught the team the fundamental principles associated with quick changeover. The training ensured that the team had the tools necessary to hit the ground running and make changes that would have a positive financial impact for the corporation."

Jason Peterson, Manufacturing Engineer